

The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

Order of Service – 10:00 am

* - Please rise in body or in spirit



Words of Welcome

The Community Reformed Church of Colonie welcomes you. We are a community bound together and energized by faith, love, and commitment to Jesus Christ. And even though you may not yet share that faith, love, and commitment, you are most welcome to be with us, to belong here, to experience what we're about. Then, if you are attracted and persuaded by what you see and hear, we hope you'll want to set down roots here long-term. And even if you don't, you'll always be a friend. Thank you for worshipping with us.

FOR CONTEMPLATION

“Christian nationalism—the belief that America is God’s chosen nation and must be defended as such—serves as a powerful predictor of intolerance toward immigrants, racial minorities, and non-Christians. It is linked to opposition to gay rights and gun control, to support for harsher punishments for criminals, to justifications for the use of excessive force against black Americans in law enforcement situations, and to traditionalist gender ideology.”

— Kristin Kobes Du Mez,
Jesus and John Wayne: How White Evangelicals Corrupted a Faith
and Fractured a Nation

Former Elder at Community Reformed Church of Colonie

PRELUDE “How Can I Keep from Singing?”

THE COMMUNITY GATHERS

THE ELDER’S PRAYER – Karl Coté

THE EXTINGUISHING OF THE LENTEN CANDLES

INTROIT “Come and Find the Quiet Center”

CALL TO WORSHIP

Draw us today into fresh encounters with Jesus, O God.

***Make us servants of love so that others may know how much
You love them and we may know how much You love us.***

Let us not be afraid of new pastures, whether they be green or brown
or parched.

***And as we pass through whatever the day’s valleys, keep our
heads lifted up to the mountain, from whence our help comes.***

Never let us forget the people Jesus welcomed...

***the greedy and the great,
the bad and the good,
the respected and the cheats.***


Even as the world becomes more callous and chaotic,

***may we never underestimate Your capacity to fashion the
miraculous from the monstrous, even to make us choice
masterpieces from the mire and the clay.***




* HYMN “Without Seeing You” (Verses 1-3)

Refrain:



With-out see-ing you, we love you; with-out touch-ing you, we em brace; with-out

end after final verse




know-ing you, we fol-low; with-out see-ing you, _____ we be- lieve. _____

Verses:



We re - turn to you deep with - in, leave the
 The _____ spar - row will find a home, near to
 For - ev - er we sing to you of your



past to the dust; turn to you with tears and
 you, _____ O God; how _____ hap - py, we who
 good - ness, O God; pro - claim - ing to _____



fast - ing; you are read - y to for - give. _____
 dwell with you, for - ev - er in your house. _____
 all the world of your faith - ful - ness and love. _____

* RESPONSIVE READING

Around the well of your grace, O God,
 are those who thirst for friendship and love;

Help us to offer them

the living water of community and connectedness;

Around the well of your life, O God,
are those who thirst for joy and safety;

***Help us to offer them
the living water of playfulness and protection;***

Around the well of your mercy, O God,
are those who thirst for wholeness and peace;

***Help us to offer them
the living water of comfort, healing and welcome;***

Around the well of your presence, O God,
are those who thirst for meaning and connection;

***Help us to offer them
the living water of service and worship;***

May the life we have found in you,
be the gift we share

***with all who hunger and thirst,
with all who are outcast and rejected,
with all who have too little or too much,
with all who are wounded or ashamed,***

and, through us, may this corner of the world overflow
with your living water.

In Jesus' Name
Amen.

***TAIZÉ MEDITATION "Blessing & Praise" (3 times)**

***Blessing and praise be given,
Blessing and praise be given
To Christ who comes, who comes for us,
Comes in the name of the Lord.***

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

If we're honest, compassion does not come easy to us, God;
We see others who struggle;

those without homes, or food;

those dying from curable diseases, simply because they can't get access to the medicine they need;

those who have lost loved ones through death or circumstance, and long for human companionship;

those who are persecuted and judged because of their difference;

those who are facing the awful consequences of bad choices they have made;

and those who must live with the consequences of choices that others make that impact their lives;

It all just feels like it's too much,

and there's nothing we can do.

But, we know that's not true – we know that compassion is enough;

that when we allow ourselves to feel, compassion will lead us to do what we can, and that this will make a difference.

And so, we pray first for ourselves: that you would soften our hearts, and still our fears,

and lead us into those acts of compassion that we are capable of doing.

And then we pray for all of these others whose lives can be changed through small, simple acts of care;

that you would disturb us, and others like us, until we finally step up and play our part in the saving of your world;

and that enough of us would answer your call,

that the needs of the hurting ones may be met.

TAIZÉ MEDITATION “Jesus Remember Me” (3 times)

***Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.***

***Jesus, remember me
when you come into your Kingdom.***

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS - based on Psalm 91:14-15

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Sarah Huiest

DEACON'S PRAYER FOR THE WORLD – Jessica Kaercher

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for yours is the kingdom, and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM “Jesus Met the Woman at the Well”

SCRIPTURE LESSON John 4:5-42

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that

the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

THE MORNING MESSAGE “For The Sake of Jesus.”

*HYMN 539 "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

539 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8

1. I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to fol - low
 2. I want to see the bright-ness of God; I want to look at
 3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ; I want to be with

Je - sus. God set the stars to give light to the world; the
 Je - sus. Clear Sun of right-eous-ness, shine on my path, and
 Je - sus. When we have run with pa-tience the race, we

Refrain

star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther. In him there is no dark-ness at
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

all; the night and the day are both a - like. The Lamb is the

light of the cit - y of God: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

WORDS and MUSIC: Kathleen Thomenon, 1966
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HOUSTON
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***BENEDICTION**

***THE IRISH BLESSING**

*May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be ever at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, and until we meet again,
May the God who loves us all
Hold you in the palm of His hand.
Amen.*

The Call to Worship was written by
Leonard Sweet

The Responsive Reading and the Prayer of Confession were written by
John van de Laar

Worship Leaders

Minister of Word and
Sacrament

**Rev. Bruce K.
Cornwell**

Elder of the Day
Karl Coté

Deacon of the Day
Jessica Kaercher

Liturgist
Karl Coté

Children’s Message
Sarah Huiest

Director of Music
Ministries
Ben April

Soloists
**Ben April
Kevin Ingalls
Marissa Lombardo**

Choir

**Tina-Marie Bottini
Michelle Braungard
Maggie George
Kaaren Haushalter
Marvin Helf
Kevin Ingalls
Pam Izzo
Marissa Lombardo
Lisa McGee**

Technical Director
Cameron Kaercher

Sound Technician
John Lombardo

Video Technician
Cameron Kaercher

Welcome Host
Mark Kaercher

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Haas

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**I want to Walk as a Child
of the Light**

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The Irish Blessing

Words: Traditional
Music: Benjamin April
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www.communityreformedchurch.com

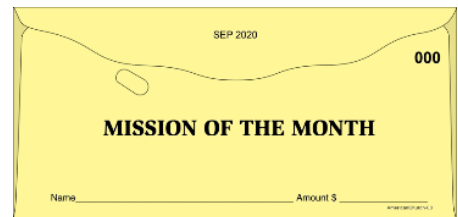
Mailing Address:

Community Reformed Church of Colonie
701 Sand Creek Road
Colonie, NY 12205

Special Offering Envelopes –

The special offering envelope for March.

You may make your offering to these with the envelope provided, mail in the offering to the Church office or through Paypal. If you have any questions, contact Lori Coté at crcclori@gmail.com.



In-Person Worship Guidelines - Even though you may be vaccinated, mask wearing continues to be encouraged to protect our vulnerable and medically compromised worshippers. We ask you to respect the distance and comfort levels of others. Reminder: If you are feeling under the weather, please remain home and participate in worship via Zoom

ZOOM

To join Sunday Worship via Zoom, use the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/CRCCZoom>

Meeting ID: 688 088 7155

By Phone: 1-646-558-8656



Prayer E-Chain

Please email prayer requests to:

Sandy Cornwell
crccsandy@gmail.com
Karen Latta
kmlatta@nycap.rr.com

COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH OF COLONIE STAFF AND CONSISTORY

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CONSISTORY

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Kevin Ingalls
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